

The work here was carried on with varying success until the session of 1854-55, when Metis was abandoned and the extreme western peninsula of Ontario, embracing parts of the counties of Essex and Kent, was adopted instead.

The qualifications of a missionary in those days were high and varied, including the ability not only to speak French as well as English, but also to preach, teach, and act as a colporteur. Indeed, so high was the standard required, that it appears no fit and proper person could be obtained in the colonies, as we find the Society in correspondence with Drs. Stewart and D'Aubigne, of Geneva, Switzerland, regarding the appointment of a missionary from that distant place.

The Society appears to have been peculiarly unfortunate in many of its earlier missionaries, who frequently manifested a fickle and obstinate character, disregarding the instructions sent to them from time to time, and pursuing a course of conduct not always conducive to the prosperity and comfort of the Society under whose auspices they were working.

In the session of 1855-56, a new departure was taken in the direction of procuring a native French Canadian and educating him specially for a missionary amongst his own people, and, in January of the latter year the following resolution was passed:—"That this Society obtain a native French Canadian to be educated at its expense in Knox College, Toronto, with the view to his being employed as its missionary, and that the committee be empowered to correspond with proper parties to secure one." During the following summer a suitable person was obtained and his education was carried on in accordance with the above resolution. Throughout the summer months he was sent to the counties of Essex and Kent, and labored under the super-

vision of the Rev. Mr.—now Prof.—McLaren, who was stationed at that time in Amherstburg; and, during the winter, he prosecuted his studies at the college under the care of the Society.

The Society, however, was not more fortunate in this venture than in earlier ones, for, in a short time after its missionary had finished his theological training, he severed his connection with the Society under whose care and by whose help he had received his education, leaving it to look out for the services of some other man. Conduct such as this on the part of its missionaries was very discouraging to the Society, and led in a few years to an entire change both in the object aimed at, and also in the manner of securing that object.

The session of 1853-54 will always be a memorable one in the history of the Society, as in that year it was honored by a visit from the devoted and celebrated Indian missionary, the late Dr. Duff, who addressed the students of the college and received an address from them.

In 1854 the annual report of the Society was published for the first time.

The session of 1861-62 marks a new era in the history of the Society. In 1861, two branches of the Presbyterian Church—the United Presbyterian and the Free Church—became one, and this auspicious union was not confined to the Churches, but extended to the colleges and also to the societies in connection with them; so that in the fall of 1861 the Missionary Societies of the two colleges were amalgamated, and on January 20th, 1862, the "Students' Missionary Society of Knox College" was considered dissolved, after its effects had been transferred to the new Society.

For several years after the union, the Society continued to support one or more missionaries among the